

October 26, 2021



Parable of the Pastor

Does it appear lately that the world seems to be running out of control? Everywhere I turn it seems that people are more angry, more frustrated, and generally in a foul mood. Many of the news stories detail public confrontations that leave you shaking your head and asking, "Why are people so angry? Kindness appears to be in short supply as more and more are expressing frustration and impatience. I am frustrated and angry that the world around me is so angry...oops...therein is the problem.

Does it seem the world, our lives, our church, etc. is not moving as rapidly as I want it to? Does it seem that everyone else is in slow motion when I am ready to get back to normal? Hence, the frustration builds. The internal judgment begins to pool within my heart and mind. It becomes easier and easier to criticize those around me and to point to what THEY should be doing to make my life easier, better, and more normal.

Then I looked in the mirror. I began to listen to my own internal conversations. I took stock of my own judgments. I listened to the criticism that I have begun to express to and about others. Herein lies an explanation for my rationale that "the world is running out of control" because too often, I am running out of control. Let's be honest. I cannot be a healing force for anyone until and unless I offer the same healing to myself first. Better yet, perhaps I need to listen more carefully to something Jesus said long ago, "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye." In other words, "Work on me, before I ever try to work on thee."

Dr Bonnie Henry has been brilliant in helping us take care of ourselves and one another in these last two years. She wisely counseled, Be Kind. Be Calm. Be Safe. Based on Jesus' admonition, I am sensing the need to add another caution in my own life. Be Quiet. In other words, Stop talking and listen to my own frustration and impatience without needing to direct toward others. Stop being critical with others without thinking critically first of the harm and damage that my own words and behaviour cause to someone else.

"Be quiet" and listen more. Be quiet and pray more. Ask someone else "How is it going?" and then Be quiet and listen to their story emerge. Suddenly the world may seem less anxious, less critical, and judgmental because suddenly our focus is on ourselves which is where healing begins first. Let me know how it goes for you and I will let you know how it goes for me.

In Kindness, Mitch

Thanksgiving! What does it mean to each of us?

Each year we set aside one day to be thankful but even in these trying times we have much to be thankful for and one day just doesn't seem to be enough.

For all of October, tell us what you're thankful for - maybe it's a small thing - maybe it's big. We have been blessed in many ways!

Send an email to the office, or jot it down and drop it into the boxes at the church or hall.

Reservations for Sunday

We are still asking for congregants to register for attendance at the Sunday service. We know that many have stopped pre-registering. However, as more people attend (and we get closer to reaching our capacity of 70 attendees) we need your help to let us know if you'll be there in-person on Sunday.

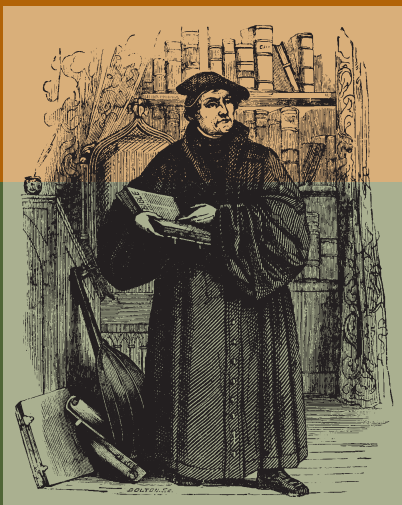
Please help us to prepare for worship by [clicking here](#) for the form to register for Sunday.

Protestants: Reformation Sunday

This year, October 31st falls on Sunday. The 31st is both Hallowe'en (or All Hallows Eve/ All Souls Day), a currently Christian holiday that borrows from pre-Christian traditions. It is also a day of commemoration of the start of the Protestant reformation. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther challenged the Roman Catholic Church's theology of salvation and sacraments by nailing his 95 statements to the door of a church in Wittenberg.

By the 1500s, with little separation between church and state, the Roman Catholic church had a lot of political power in Western Europe. With power came a certain amount of corruption and practices like selling 'indulgences' (ways to reduce one's time in purgatory before entering heaven- as was catholic doctrine) were extorting a lot of money from the people.

Martin Luther, a catholic monk protested against the selling of indulgences as well as many other practices. This protest started a movement that continues today in Protestant churches all over the world. [Click here for an interesting article](#) explaining the reformation and its history and impact on the world.



Halloween Concert

The Victoria Chapter of the Royal Canadian College of Organists will hold a Halloween concert on October 30th in the St. Andrew's Sanctuary. The concert is at 3:00 pm.

Admission is by donation.

You are invited to come in costume to enjoy some spooky and impressive organ performances!



All necessary Covid protocols will be followed such as masks, distancing and checking for proof of vaccination



The deadline for The Link is October 31st. Please send submissions to thelink@shaw.ca

A Prayer for Today from PWS&D

We pray for youth in Malawi who are receiving increased access to sexual and reproductive health services and information, life skills, and nutrition and advocacy skills through a PWS&D program.



Read From Your Bible This Week

- Ruth 1:1-18
- Psalm 146
- Hebrews 9:11-14
- Mark 12:28-34

